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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JERUSA 02216 091852Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----------016381 091857Z /47
O R 091554Z AUG 78
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1512
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CARO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T JERUSALEM 2216

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS USDEL FOR SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS:PBOR, MARR, UNSC, IS, LE, XF
SUBJECT:SOUTH LEBANON: SECRETARY'S LETTER TO BOUTROS

REF: (A) SECTO 09023, (B) BEIRUT 4548

1. STARK (UK EMBASSY TEL AVIV) CAME TO SEE ME AFTER CHECKING WITH UNHQ JERUSALEM AS RESULT AMBASSADOR PARKER'S BRIEFING OF BRITISH AND FRENCH EMBASSIES ON SECRETARY'S LETTER TO BOUTROS. UNTSO HAD BEEN TAKEN BACK WHEN INFORMED OF POSSIBLE USE OF UN HELICOPTERS.
2. SUBSEQUENTLY IN CHECK WITH UNTSO OPERATIONS, WE WERE INFORMED NIFIL HAS ONLY FOUR UH-ID HELICOPTERS PILOTED BY NORWEGIANS. MAXIMUM LOAD SIX PASSENGERS. NORMALLY UNIFIL KEEPS ONE HELICOPTER ON MEDEVAC STANDBY, RESULTING IN ONLY THREE FOR OTHER DUTIES.

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3. TECHNICALLY, UN COULD AIRLIFT ONE COMPANY WITH NUMEROUS SORTIES SINCE DISTANCE FROM KAWKABA TO TIBNIN IS NOT GREAT. UNHQ JERUALEM HAS IMPRESSION LEBANESE ALSO HAVE UH-ID HELICOPTERS IN THEIR INVENTORY AND BELIEVES IT MIGHT BE BETTER POLITICALLY TO USE LEBANESE AIRCRAFT IF POLITICAL DECISION TO TAKEN ALONG LINES SECTO 09023.

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4. UN SAYS KAWKABA/MARJAYOUN AREA HAS BEEN QUIET FOR LAST 24 HOURS.

5. LAF- HADDAD MEETING TOOK PLACE AUGUST 8, BUT UN HERE HAS NO DETAILS.

6. ERSKINE/EITAN MEETING TAKING PLACE AFTERNOON AUGUST 9 IN ROSH HANIKRA. UN EXPECTS ERSKINE TO PRESS IDF HARD ON HADDAD MAINTAINING CEASEFIRE.

7. DESPITE REPORTED INSTRUCTIONS FROM NEW YORK, WE HAVE IMPRESSION ERSKINE/AIME ARE RELUCTANT TO AUTHORIZE UNIFIL OFFICERS TO GET INTO THE MIDDLE OF POLITICAL/MILITARY NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN LAF AND HADDAD. ERSKINE HAS REPORTEDLY INSTRUCTED HIS SUBORDINATES IN THE FIELD TO STICK MAINLY TO MILITARY MATTERS SUCH AS THE MAINTENANCE OF CEASEFIRE.

NEWLIN

NOTE BY OC/T: JERUSALEM 2216 NOT PASSED USDEL FOR SECRETARY.

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Message Attributes

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